



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California Desert District
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
www.ca.blm.gov/cdd



In Reply Refer To:

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June 24, 2008

Chairperson
Rumsey Rancheria
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

Dear Chairperson:

As part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) ongoing government-to-government consultation with the Rumsey Rancheria, I am writing to let you know that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Energy (DOE) have initiated the preparation of a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate solar energy development on BLM-administered lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 establishes a goal for the BLM to approve 10,000 megawatts of non-hydropower renewable energy on BLM-administered lands by the year 2015. The DOE and BLM have identified utility-scale solar energy development, along with wind and geothermal power, as critical components in meeting this goal and the Nation's energy needs. Utility-scale solar energy projects generate electricity that is distributed to consumers through the electric power transmission grid.

The study area has been limited to six states based on initial resource assessment showing that these states encompass the most prospective solar energy resources suitable for utility-scale development over the next 20 years. The BLM has already received a large number of utility-scale solar energy project proposals for BLM-administered lands, mainly in Arizona, southern California, and Nevada.

In addition to government-to-government consultation on this topic, we would also like to offer you an opportunity to partner with us in a cooperating agency relationship for this PEIS and potential plan amendments. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1500-1508) emphasize the use of such arrangements as a means of ensuring timely coordination with Tribal, State, Federal, and local agencies in preparation of NEPA analyses and documentation. The BLM places great importance on working effectively with its governmental partners through the cooperating agency relationship. For further information, please see our cooperating agency web site:

<http://www.blm.gov/planning/cadg/>

Cooperating agency status is available to government entities with jurisdiction by law or special expertise. The cooperating agency must sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal agency and must fund its own participation. Other governmental entities who may be invited to be cooperating agencies on this PEIS include the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah; other federal agencies, county governments; and several local town and city governments.

Preparation of the PEIS is a multi-step process that will be completed in approximately 22 months and will include the preparation of a draft PEIS, a final PEIS, and Records of Decision by the BLM and the DOE. As such, we anticipate very short, concurrent review timeframes for both us and our cooperating agencies. Cooperating agencies may negotiate the level of their involvement consistent with their available staffing and resources.

Gaining your Tribe's expertise and perspective is important to the success of the PEIS and subsequent management strategies. We value your knowledge, concerns and perspectives relating to the planning area. Please note that the tribe's participation as a cooperating agency does not replace BLM's obligation to consult on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, regardless of your tribe's decision to participate or not as a cooperating agency, our government-to-government consultation will continue.

If you would like to participate as a cooperating agency, please contact Gregory Miller, Renewable Energy Program Manager, California Desert District Office, at (951) 697-5200. Also, please allow me to direct you to our web site where you can gain further information and sign up for web news and up-dates. The web site address is:

<http://solareis.anl.gov>

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to our interaction and discussions with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven J. Borchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Borchard" clearly legible.

Steven J. Borchard
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